



Minutes

Tipperary PPN Secretariat Meeting

May 2024

Date: Thursday 16th May 2024

Location: Zoom only

Facilitator: Derry O'Donnell

Minutes: Niamh ni Chillin

Present: Zoom: Derry O'Donnell, Kuldeep Joshi, Daniel Long, Ruth Smith, Michael Kealy, Charles Stanley Smith, Sharon Melbourne, Niamh ni Chillin, Mike Edwards

Apologies: Anne Williamson, JJ O'Sullivan

No conflicts of interest declared

Agenda – Everyone agreed the agenda

Minutes proposed by Michael Kealy and seconded by Kuldeep Joshi

Correspondence:

- Gearoid Fitzgibbon, Sustainable Energy Community (Tipperary Mentor) has been in contact and had a Zoom meeting with Ruth re the TPPN becoming a Sustainable Energy Community, which is a simple registration process, and then taking part in a project.

It would require forming an SEC and making an Energy Master Plan. We could apply for a grant of up to 20k, 20% of which could go towards reaching out to MDs(€4,000), to recruit the groups to do the assessment projects. Gearoid said he would support with paperwork etc.. We felt it would be good to get involved provided it doesn't cause too much extra work for the TPPN office without any obvious advantage to the organisation. Gearoid will have a stand at our 10th Anniversary Plenary- a good opportunity to talk to him and find out more about the project. One of the Galway PPNs has done the whole project and Ruth has talked to them about their experience. We agreed to register as an SEC for the moment and discuss going further with this at our June Secretariat meeting.

- We have been asked whether we can share a Palestinian Solidarity Campaign survey with our North Tipperary registered groups in order to ensure a wide range of views. The majority of members on the Secretariat voted against this, as a precedent might be set for other groups and it might compromise our position as a politically neutral organisation.

Finance

Actual balance operating A/C Bal: €8,961.11

Actual balance company/wages A/C : €24,167.66

There hasn't been a Finance meeting since our last Secretariat Meeting. Next Finance meeting is on Tuesday 9th July 10am.

Directors Report: The Directors have agreed to our Coordinator's Salary Increment Increase.

The AGM will probably be in September. (Charles needs to get in touch with Kieran re getting the accounts done.)

Coordinators report

9 new groups were registered, mostly under the Community and Voluntary Pillar.

Mike flagged some concerns about one of the newly registered groups. They have already been registered so we will need to take further advice and consult the handbook on this. Charles will speak to someone from DRCD for advice as well.

In general it was agreed that we need to develop policies around the area of discrimination and racism and develop processes to enable us to respond to issues. We have used an anti-racist declaration as a precondition of taking part in our online hustings, we discussed the possibility of something like this becoming part of PPN registration in the future.

We will look into joining the Irish Network Against Racism.

Fiona Crotty has suggested that we team up with Healthy Tipp (Aine Roche) events in October in the 5 Municipal Districts. We could have a stand at these events and work on the review of our vision through engagement with PPN members at these events. We could then have a County meeting on the Vision review. This plan would lower the costs associated with running events. We agreed to include these efforts to reduce costs in communications with Ann-Marie Scanlan in DRCD.

Plenary

So far, we have agreed to have a BBQ event in Littleton and have booked a company willing to source local food and be plastic free. They will have beef burgers, sausages and vegetarian burgers. They have also agreed to cook pork burgers bought from a local supplier (We agreed to buy approx. 2 Kg from Sean O'Farrell).

We discussed the possibility of having an ice-cream van. JJ is looking into this.

Fiona Crotty gave us extra money and is paying for a photographer, Derek- video.

1st Aid – Mike Edwards will bring the first aid.

Photo Collage : Sharon would like all Secretariat members to get Headshots and give quotes. She would also like photos of/from PPN groups too.

There will be videos reflecting the MDs and the Pillars (Sister Patricia, Charles, Derry, and others)

We will need a separate planning meeting as there is a lot involved.

Training:

Sustainable Development Goals: Sharon attended the training on sustainable development goals online on the 8th of May

Charles, Ruth and Sharon attended Sustainable Development Goals training in TCEC on 15th May 6-8pm.

There will be a Tidy Towns Meeting which Ruth will attend re registration under pillars other than Community and Voluntary etc..

National Workers Network:

Ruth:- Collaboration between National Secretariat Network and Workers Network was discussed for example perhaps having biannual zoom meetings together.

Focusing on positives in annual reviews was emphasised as important.

Local self-government in Ireland sent to us already in email.

Commitment to workers was discussed.

Sharon: -Due to send our survey on Barriers to engagement soon

Social Media Campaign: 17th-21st June around 10 Year Anniversary

Irish Civil Liberties – May 28th 10:30am

NAG:

The NAG are moving towards finalizing the Road Map (The process was started in 2019)

Charles represented the NAG at a think tank with the DRCD where values on Human Rights and Equality were discussed.

Charles spoke of difficulties that some PPNs are experiencing and added that independence is important for PPNs. DRCD need to take a bigger role in ensuring Local Authority respects the independence and role of the PPNs

National Secretariat:

There was an in-person and zoom meeting on May 9th in Dublin, Trinity Point 11:30 until 3:30pm. Niamh attended in person.

There was a presentation from 4 members of staff from the Department. Among other things they spoke on progress with the roadmap and answered a few questions on that and on the Handbook.

There was a report on how our contribution to the Senate hearing on Local authorities went. Both Stephen Rourke and Donal O'Shea attended and contributed.

Collaboration between National Secretariat Network and Workers Network was discussed

There was a report from the Handbook Subgroup

The tender for NSN coordinators job was discussed as it is coming up for the next 2 years.

Environmental News:

Community Climate Coach Project is going well

On June 22nd there will be a National Launch at the Talbot Hotel, Clonmel 10-16:30

Rep Update:

There will be new Rep calls after the Local Elections

Local and EU Elections 2024 (7th June)

We have had 2 of our 5 online Hustings for the MDs

-Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel was on May Mon 13th with Niamh moderating. There were 2 candidates.

-Nenagh Hustings was on Tues 14th with Charles moderating. One candidate participated.

Both Hustings went well.

Micheal Kealy will moderate in Carrick on Mon 20th May and there will be 2 more Hustings for Clonmel and Thurles - Mon 27th May and Tues 28th May.

Sharon will be on admin, Ruth on timer and a member of the Secretariat from the MDs chairing.

AOB:

PPN Conference is on Thurs Oct 17 and Friday 18th

TPPN office will be closed from 12th of August for a week as Ruth and Sharon are both on holidays.

Ruth, Sharon and Secretariat Finance Committee members will be going on training to learn about Irish Tax- Enhanced Reporting Requirements (Michael has already done this training)

The Community Energy Charter Launch will be on Mon 27th at 3pm in Tullamore, Offaly. Charles to attend.

The Meeting was closed at 8pm

